

Weekly Column for July 24, 2008

It has been a fast-paced six weeks around the City of Troy. Starting with the River Street Festival on June 14<sup>th</sup> and culminating with the Troy Pig Out this past weekend, we have been the home to a number of family friendly events that cost those attending not one penny.

With the economy struggling, and people looking for things to do close to home, we could not have chosen a better time to roll out the Pig Out and the ultra-successful Rockin' On The River Concert series, which turned an historically slow night in the summer, Wednesdays, into a boon for many of the businesses on River Street. We could not be more pleased with how everything has turned out so far, and I hope that we will see them again in 2009.

Of course, we are not done yet.

Coming up in just a few weeks in Downtown Troy, will be the 2008 New York Penn League All-Star Game Fan Festival. That's a mouthful. Hosted by the City of Troy and the ValleyCats, the fan festival will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, a Monday night and will be highlighted by a performance by rock legend Eddie Money. That's right, Eddie Money for free on a Monday night in Troy.

There will of course be many activities for kids of all ages, and a chance to meet to future superstars of Major League Baseball. Mark your calendars for this unique event that will not happen again for sometime.

After the fan festival, the City will have one more sponsored event taking place this year, and that will be the second annual ChowderFest, scheduled to take place September 20<sup>th</sup>, just south of the Troy Farmer's Market on River Street.

Last year's event was a wonderful success, outside of running out of chowder early in the day, so we are certainly hoping to see a repeat performance this year.

The organizers of these events could always use additional help, particularly in the weeks leading up to the event, as well as the day of. If you have any interest in helping out in some fashion, please e-mail my office and we will make sure that anyone interested in helping is taken up on the offer.

One final thing today- tomorrow is of course the July '08 version of Troy Night Out. Be sure to head downtown Friday night and support the local businesses. The streets are sure to be crowded on a beautiful night following this dreary weather week, and you will not be disappointed.

Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian, Mayor of Troy